Eyesight Adaptation

Grade 5



Materials: UV bubbles, UV light, room that can be dark, extension cord.

1. Go to the following website and read to the class the different animals with eye adaptations. <http://www.eyes-and-vision.com/how-animals-see-the-world.html>
2. Take out UV bubbles. Don’t say anything about the nature of the bubbles.
3. Divide class in half. 1st group are bees and 2nd group are butterflies.
4. Explain that “the bubbles are food and you will blow the bubbles around the floor while they are out of the room, and when you let them back in, they have to locate and stand where the bubbles dropped within 10 seconds of coming back into the room.” The other group can stay in the room. (be sure to shake the bottle really well.)
5. After the BEES do the activity, repeat for the BUTTERFLY group.
6. Now, turn off the lights and walk around with the UV lamp close to the floor. Explain that the bubbles were coated with UV detecting solution.
7. Read:

***Bees and Butterflies can see ultraviolet light (light invisible to the human eye) which makes the markings on flowers very vivid to them and guides them to the nectar tubes.  Some butterflies have ultraviolet reflectants, or markings, on their own wings which are visible only to other butterflies.*** *The reflected ultraviolet light provides a sort of miner's lamp to guide the bee to the nectar.*

1. Have a classroom discussion on eye adaptation.